

## ABSTRACT

It is an object of the present invention to provide a  
5 thermally expandable microcapsule, which can be thermally  
expanded at low temperatures and in which an expanded  
microcapsule is resistant to shrink at high temperatures.

The present invention pertains to a thermally  
expandable microcapsule, which contains a shell polymer and  
10 a volatile expanding agent becoming gaseous at a  
temperature not higher than a softening point of said shell  
polymer, in which said shell polymer contains a nitrile  
monomer component in an amount 70% by weight or more and a  
content of an acrylonitrile component in said nitrile  
15 monomer component is 40 to 85% by weight, and the volatile  
expanding agent contains a volatile expanding agent having  
a branched-chain structure or a cyclic structure in an  
amount 30% by weight or more.